

# The Home Town

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## THE HOME TOWN

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**W**HAT is this thing we call our "town?" What is it that makes it different from other towns? Why is it that the lawyer in Arkansas and the farmer in Washington, meeting after many years of absence from home, hail each other for news from "the old town," where they were born?

¶ What makes the difference between towns? Just this—the spirit in the hearts of men. The success of a home, of a business house, or a town, depends absolutely upon the spirit in the hearts of their people.

¶ Must we then sit idly by and let our towns drift as best they may, simply because they are predestined by the spirit in the hearts of our citizens? By no means, because the proper spirit can be created. As a matter of fact, it already exists, although perhaps it is lying dormant waiting to be awakened.

¶ This spirit is only the spirit of the team. It is the spirit your boys are putting—must put—into their game of ball. It is the spirit of the class, of the fraternity, of the college. It is the spirit which leads a man to sink his own individual desires, ambitions and interests beneath the need of common welfare.

¶ When we learn how to work together and not against each other; when we learn that the hurt of one is the damage of all, and that profit is no profit that does not profit every one and cause loss to no one; when we awake to the glory and beauty of that slogan of democracy "Each for all and all for each" then we shall enter the charmed circle of the golden years.

¶ The people of Los Angeles with only this spirit and climate created one of the most wonderful cities in America if not the world. Eighteen miles inland with almost no advantages they have succeeded in building one of the greatest cities on the Pacific coast. The men of Atlantic City with their only asset a strip of sandy sea shore have made of it the Nation's playground.

¶ This spirit already exists in Harrisburg. It is doubtful if there is a single hamlet in all the land where the spirit of the home town is not ever-present. Too often this spirit is smothered in the sea of petty jealousies, but the spirit lives. How quickly it flames up and how warm its blaze when two men from the same town meet by chance in distant places. The petty feuds and factions are forgotten as these men clasp hands in that great fraternity of "the home town."

¶ The love of the lawyer in Kansas and the farmer in Washington for Harrisburg, their old home town, was kindled when they lived here. Their appreciation of Harrisburg is perhaps enhanced by reason of their absence, but should it be necessary to leave our home town to learn how firmly we are attached to it?

¶ An essential in building up this spirit is organization. Competition is as keen between cities as it is between firms. We cannot stand still; either we are moving forward or falling behind. Against the man who denies the need of town organization stands the experience of every city in the United States; he must prove that he is right and all the world is wrong. Today men of astuteness are judging towns by their chambers of commerce. Successful men of business are determining whether or not towns shall receive their investment by the strength and energy of

their chambers of commerce. If a town is to move forward, the people in that town must get together and pull in the same direction. This takes organization.

¶ If for no other reason, we must organize in self-defense. Other cities are prepared to move instantly when questions come up that affect their interests.

¶ Organization is the greatest power in the world. No man can estimate the power which can be exerted by a thousand men united in a common cause.

¶ In building up this team spirit, the first essential is acquaintance, the second is organization and the third is personal service. We cannot wish things better, we must work to better them. The responsibility is a personal matter which rests with every citizen. Our city is a city of averages, and the government is no better, the streets no cleaner, and the parks no greener, than the average citizen wants them. To every one belongs a part of the responsibility of raising that average.

¶ President Wilson has said that patriotism must be rooted in local soil. The man who does not love his home town cannot love his country. There can be no patriotism which is not a patriotism of personal service and sacrifice. Our town—your town, has great opportunities. It cannot become the biggest but it may become the best town of its size in the world. Success comes not with populations nor with wealth. That town is successful whose people are happy, healthy, and contented. To provide these essentials is my duty and your duty. It is the primary duty of our Chamber of Commerce

## AN IDEAL CITY

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- ¶ A city sanitary, convenient, substantial;
- ¶ Where the houses of the rich and the poor are alike comfortable and beautiful;
- ¶ Where the streets are clean and the sky line is clear as the country air;
- ¶ Where the architectural excellence of its buildings adds beauty and dignity to its streets;
- ¶ Where parks and playgrounds are within reach of every child;
- ¶ Where living is pleasant, toil honorable, and recreation plentiful;
- ¶ Where capital is respected, but not worshipped;
- ¶ Where commerce in goods is great, but no greater than the interchange of ideas;
- ¶ Where industry thrives and brings prosperity alike to employer and employed;
- ¶ Where education and art have a place in every home;
- ¶ Where worth and not wealth give standing to men;
- ¶ Where the power of character lifts men to leadership;
- ¶ Where interest in public affairs is a test of citizenship and devotion to the public weal is a badge of honor;
- ¶ Where government is always honest and efficient and the principles of democracy find their fullest and truest expression;
- ¶ Where the people of all earth can come and be blended into one community life, and where each generation will vie with the past to transmit to the next a city greater, better, and more beautiful than the last.—*Mayo Fesler.*

¶ *I like to see a man proud of his town and I like to see him so live that his town will be proud that he lives in it.*

—ABRAHAM LINCOLN